

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claims 1, 3-4 and 7-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Wang (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0001977; hereinafter Wang) in view of Linzer (U.S. Pat. No. 6,463,102; hereinafter Linzer) has been obviated by amendment and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Wang, in view of Linzer, and further in view of Dimitrova et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,469,749) has been obviated by amendment and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Wang, in view of Linzer, and further in view of Teicher et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,847,703) has been obviated by amendment and should be withdrawn.

Wang teaches an apparatus and a method for preventing automated detection of television commercials (Title). Linzer teaches a digital video compressor with border processor (Title). Dimitrova teaches automatic signature-based spotting, learning and extracting of commercials and other video content (Title). Teicher

teaches a browsing system method and apparatus for video motion pictures (Title).

In contrast, claim 1 of the present invention provides a method for processing a video signal. The method comprising the steps of (A) receiving the video signal comprising (i) a first segment having a series of frames wherein (a) each of the frames of the first segment has a first region and a second region and (b) the first region and the second region of the first segment define a first signature for each of the frames of the first segment and (ii) a second segment having a series of frames wherein (a) each of the frames of the second segment has a first region and a second region and (b) the first region and the second region of the second segment define a second signature for each of the frames of the second segment, (B) modifying each of the frames of the first segment from the first signature to a third signature, where the first segment comprises a non-commercial program and (C) modifying each of the frames of the second segment from the second signature to a fourth signature. Claims 11 and 13 provide similar limitations. The references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each of the claimed limitations.

In particular, claim 1 provides that a video signal has a first segment and a second segment. Claim 1 also provides that the first segment has a first region and a second region of each frame and that the first region and second region of the first

segment define a first signature for each frame of the first segment. Claim 1 also provides that the second segment has a first region and a second region of each frame and the first region and the second region of the second segment define a second signature for each frame of the second segment. Wang is silent concerning a first region and a second region in each frame, as presently claimed. At best, Wang teaches modifying the commercial transition frames. Linzer does not cure the defects of Wang. Linzer appears to teach blacking out, blurring or copying edges of video frames into the inactive regions of video frames. Linzer appears to be silent concerning a first region and a second region of a frame that define a signature for such frame, as presently claimed. The references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a video segment having a first region and a second region that define a signature for the frame, as presently claimed. As a result, the references do not teach or suggest, alone or in combination, each of the limitations of claim 1. Claims 11, and 13 contain similar limitations. Therefore, claims 1, 11, and 13 are fully patentable and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Further, Wang appears to be silent regarding modifying each of the frames of the first segment from the first signature to a third signature, where the first segment comprises a non-commercial program, as presently claimed. At best, Wang teaches that commercial transitions may be modified with the goal that they

are undetectable. Wang does not teach or suggest modifying a signature of each of the frames of the first segment comprising a non-commercial program, as presently claimed. Linzer does not cure the deficiencies of Wang. Therefore, the references, alone or in combination, do not teach each of the limitations of claim 1. Claims 11 and 13 contain similar limitations. As a result, claims 1, 11, and 13 are fully patentable and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 5 is independently patentable over the references and the rejection should be withdrawn. Claim 5 provides the limitation that the frame is scaled to a first size. Claim 5 further provides the limitation that after scaling the frame the first region of each frame is equal to the size of each frame prior to scaling. Claim 5 then provides the limitation that the scaled frame is then cropped wherein the cropped frame comprises only the first region equaling the size of the frame prior to scaling. Wang is silent concerning scaling or cropping any of the frames. At best, Wang appears to teach modifying the transition frames of commercials. Linzer does not cure the deficiencies of Wang. Teicher does not cure the deficiencies of Wang and Linzer. At best, Teicher appears to teach cropping images to a smaller size for browsing video data. The references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each of the limitations of claim 5. As a

result, claim 5 is fully patentable and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-4, 6-10, 12 and 14 depend, directly or indirectly, from the independent claims, which are now believed to be allowable.

As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

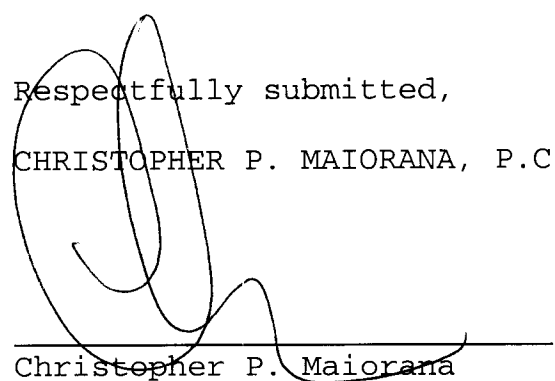
Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicant's representative between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET at 586-498-0670 should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge Deposit
Account No. 12-2252.

Respectfully submitted,

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